GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5818
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
NON-ENFORCEMENT OF PROVISIONS OF DELIVERY OF BOOKS ACT, 1954
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Director, National Library, Calcutta, failed to enforce the provisions of the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act 1954, resulting in non-receipt of books worth Rs.29.25 lakhs and foreign journals during 1984-97 for which advance payment of Rs.8.26 lakhs had been made;

(b) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed in the matter; and

(c) if so, the action taken in the matter ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) All newly published books in the country are receivable in the National Library, Calcutta under the Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Act 1954. The number of books received in the National Library during last 10 years under the aforesaid Act is indicated in Annexure A. The primary reason for non-receipt of newly published books are
(i) the provision to discourage default under Delivery of Books (Public Libraries) Actis a fine of Rs.50/- which is no deterrent . Another reason is that overwhelming number of publications are being brought out by small publishers. With the limited resources available at the National Libraryit is difficult and time consuming to reach them. However, it will be seen from the Annexure that as a result of concerted efforts now being made , the number of books received in 1999-2000 has shown 25% increase over the previous year.

The non-receipt of journals valued at Rs.8.26 lakhs during 1984-97 is attributable to the following reasons:

1) Missing of certain issues in transit.

2) Change of titles of journals before the end of the period for which subscription has been paid.

3) Sometimes 2 issues are combined together and brought out as a combined issue.

4) Cessation of publication.

5) Because of a gap between the sum advanced and the amount actually due on account of a change in the conversion rate of a particular foreign exchange.

6) Change of title.

(b) This is not warranted in the circumstances explained above.

(c) Does not arise.

Annexure - A

NATIONAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA

Publications received under the Delivery of Books Act, 1954

Year	
1990-91	18.065

1991-92	18,493
1992-93	18,051
1993-94	13,824
1994-95	14,525
1995-96	14,883
1996-97	12,504
1997-98	13,014
1998-99	15,922
1999-2000	20,012